



Women Supporting Women

The Office for Women, established in 1991, has a vision of creating an interconnected community of champions working to improve the status of all women by bringing individual community members and organizations who serve women together to enhance collaboration, communication and coordination.

We know that building and strengthening of relationships facilitates the dissemination of information, improves the understanding of needs and service gaps, and raises awareness of available resources.

We recognize that this occurs in simple ways - over coffee, around our families or by gathering to discuss and learn more about important issues such as this. Thank you for being a part of this relationship-building effort today.

Office for Women

presents

A Conversation Café: DV as a Health Issue



September 24, 2008

11:00am - 2:00pm

The Forum

**OCTOBER IS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

AGENDA

- **Tina Lentz, Office for Women:** *Welcome and Prevalence Data*
- **Gabriela Alcalde, Community Activist:** *DV as a Public Health and Health Care Issue*
- **Denise Vazquez Troutman, Center for Women and Families:** *Day-to-Day Approach from a Service Provider Perspective*
- **Sandy Hamilton, ElderServe:** *Long-Term Effects on Women who Remain in an Abusive Relationship*
- **DV Simulation – “In Her Shoes”:** *An Introduction/Followed by a Group Discussion*
- **Lisa Tobe , Center for Health Equity:** *How DV Fits into the Health Equity Model and How Social Policy Can Change it*

Lisa Tobe

Lisa has been working on women’s health issues since she served as a VISTA volunteer in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky ten years ago. As the Director of the Center for Health Equity, she helps shape policy that focus on decreasing health disparities.

Early in her career, Lisa worked with the Kentucky Commission on Women where she created a statewide coalition focused on women’s health. After obtaining her Master’s in Public Health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Lisa worked as a Health Education Consultant for the California Department of Health Services and the Program Chief, Director of Health Education for Plumas County Public Health Agency.

Before returning to Kentucky, Lisa founded and directed Women’s Mountain Passages, a non-profit, working with women and youth to connect with their strengths so they may improve their lives and facilitate social change in their communities through leadership development, advocacy and youth programs. In addition, she served as a consultant on diverse prevention efforts focusing on youth and domestic violence. As part of this work, Lisa worked with communities and organizations to assess violence issues; develop strategic, action and evaluation plans; facilitate systems changes; and enhance individual, organizational and community capacity to address diverse health issues.

In Her Shoes - Living with Domestic Violence

“In Her Shoes” was developed by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence as a community education tool to help participants understand the ups and downs a battered woman experiences over time. The scenarios are based on true stories and provide assistance in understanding issues and barriers women who are abused face when seeking help from a variety of systems and service providers.

The goals of the simulation are:

- To increase awareness of the struggles that women with abusive partners face
- To illustrate that domestic violence is a community tragedy, not a private problem
- To show that we all have a role in the movement to end domestic violence—not just the social workers, politicians and police, but the plumbers, hairdressers, clergy and family members
- To encourage everyone to think creatively about the ways we can work to end domestic violence

Today we will focus on one scenario as an introduction to the program. There are plans to conduct a full simulation in the near future. If you are interested in helping with that effort, please let us know.



M. Gabriela Alcalde

Gabriela currently works with various local organizations providing training, presentations, coalition-building, and conducting research and writing on various public health and public policy topics. She is involved with a variety of constituencies and issues that link academic, government, policy, and community efforts both in content and approach. Gabriela’s work is based on a social justice framework, with particular focus on women and Hispanic/Latino communities.

Prior to this, she was Director of the Louisville Metro Office for Women, a public policy and advocacy government office. In this capacity, her focus was on community engagement around a variety of women’s issues, with an emphasis on family violence prevention. She has also worked as an academic researcher, policy analyst, and elementary school teacher.

She holds a Master in Public Health (M.P.H.) with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Psychology from the University of Louisville. Gabriela has various publications on public health and health policy topics and has presented extensively at the local, national, and international level. She is active on local boards and coalitions addressing women’s issues and the Hispanic/Latino community.



Denise Vazquez Troutman

Denise is President/CEO of The Center for Women and Families (CWF), a private nonprofit organization that engages individuals and the community in the elimination of domestic violence, sexual violence and economic hardship through service, education and advocacy.

She is a seasoned executive who has held positions in both the nonprofit and corporate sector. Before assuming leadership at CWF, Denise was the Vice President of Human Resources with the YMCA of Greater Louisville. She has also held management positions with Starbucks Coffee Company in Atlanta, Georgia and Oracle Corporation.

Denise inspires audiences with her energy and passion for women's issues. She finds it important to mentor young women and has “adopted” the University of Louisville's Women's Basketball Team—the entire team! “Empowering women makes for stronger communities. This is why I say my personal and professional passion has truly come together at CWF.”

Although she serves on numerous boards and committees and has been honored with many corporate and community awards since settling in Louisville, Denise feels that her biggest achievements are her two college age children, Laura and Rafael. In her spare time, Denise enjoys cooking, entertaining and international travel.

Sandra J. Hamilton



Sandy has been the VOCA Program Director, Crime Victims Advocate at ElderServe for 8 years where she works with seniors who have been victimized by violent crime.

Before joining ElderServe Sandy was employed at the Center for Women and Families and worked as a Legal Advocate. Prior to that she spent 15 years in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities where “I saw lots of elder abuse and made up my mind to do something about it.”

Today she proudly says, “Under my direction the VOCA Program at ElderServe has grown from 26 clients in 1996 to over 1200 clients per year”. She and her staff started the Emergency Crisis Response Team (ECRT) and the Emergency Protective Order Service (EPO). As a first responder these services allow an abused senior to be housed immediately along with a non-medical homecare specialist. The medically fragile disabled homebound senior can now write an Emergency Protective Order in their place of residence.

She is a graduate of the University of Louisville and has a Certificate in Dental Hygiene. Sandy has also owned several catering and food services businesses.

Born in Louisville, she came home after following her abusive ex-spouse all over the United States regarding his business moves. She is now a single mother of 2 adult children and has 4 precious grandchildren.

**OFW extends a huge THANK YOU to
Sandy Hamilton for providing the
refreshments for today's event**